

Ord 22-12

From: Duane Johnson <djohns46@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 11:30 AM

To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Vivian Ihekoronye <vihekoronye@isaiahmn.org>

Subject: St. Paul Police Chief

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

My name is Duane Johnson, I live in Ward 3, and I'm a leader with ISIAAH.

Every St. Paul resident, no matter what skin color, gender or religious beliefs deserves to feel safe at home, in their neighborhood, at community and religious gatherings, and on the streets of St. Paul.

Today, this isn't the case. We have recently seen spikes in crime and intolerance, including robberies of sacred spaces. This has increased the fear factor in many of our neighborhoods, and cries from many, especially Republican legislators, for more police enforcement and heavier punishments. More repression is not the answer.

I live in a neighborhood with little fear. Most neighbors have economic security, housing stability, and are involved in the community. We look out for each other and rarely need police services.

We are privileged, but I believe that a stable, caring community is the best way to reduce bad behavior, violence and fear. Policing must support that goal, as a true service agency that focuses on the welfare of all the members of the community.

I want a new Police Chief who will embrace this goal, that the role of our police does not begin with enforcement, but rather reinforcement of the many community organizations - civic, religious, social, youth, business - and for the citizens that bring stability and safety to our neighborhoods.

I look for a candidate who has had success in implementing a service-centered culture in a police department as well as a public service plan that emphasizes the critical role of our community organizations.

Thank you,
Duane Johnson
1872 Fairmount Ave